

SCARBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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Health Department,  
Area Health Office,  
Northway,  
Scarborough.

19th September, 1966.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the year ended 31st December, 1965

TO:- The Chairman and Members of the Scarborough Rural  
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for 1965.

The remarks I made with regard to the vital  
statistics of the District last year apply with even more  
force this year.

An increase in population and in birth rate on the  
one hand are combined with a general death rate and  
perinatal death rate both substantially below the national  
rates.

The incidence of infectious disease, apart from the  
two cases of tuberculosis shows an improvement on last year,

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

W.G. EVANS,

M.A., M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

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The following Committees of the Scarborough Rural  
District Council are concerned with matters of public  
health viz:-

Health and Housing Committee

Sewerage, Drainage and Refuse Collection  
Committee.

In addition the Authority has a Representative on  
the Scarborough Area Local Health Sub-Committee (No. 10  
Area of the North Riding of Yorkshire County Council).

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The mid-year population estimated by the Registrar-General at 8,970 shows an increase of 340 compared with 1964.

Births

A total of 170 LIVE and STILL Births gave a crude birth-rate of 18.8 per 1,000 population.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	82	77	159
Illegitimate	5	5	10
	<u>87</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>169</u>

Illegitimate LIVE Births per cent of total LIVE births = 5.9%

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	-	-	-

Year	Population	Live & Still Births	LIVE Birth Rate, per 1000 population (Adjusted)	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 population (Adjusted)	Infant Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live Births	Still Births	Rate per 1,000 live and still births
1962	7820	100	15.2	120	12.9	3	30.3	1	10.0
1963	8120	140	20.87	99	9.15	3	21.6	1	7.1
1964	8630	143	19.4	119	10.8	2	14.2	2	13.9
1965	8970	170	22.4	119	10.1	2	11.8	1	5.9
England & Wales (Provisional) 1965			18.1		11.5		19.0		15.8

Infant Mortality Rates:-

Total infant deaths per 1000 LIVE births	11.8
<u>Legitimate</u> " " " 1000 <u>legitimate</u> LIVE births	12.6
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Neo-Natal Mortality Rates (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	5.9
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 <u>total live</u> births)	5.9
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1000 total LIVE and STILL BIRTHS)	11.8
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	Nil

Deaths

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Syphilitic Disease .....	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach .....	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, breast .....	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus .....	-	3
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	-	1
Diabetes .....	1	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	10
Coronary disease, angina .....	17	8
Hypertension with heart disease .....	-	1
Other heart disease .....	10	8
Other circulatory disease .....	4	3
Pneumonia .....	1	-
Bronchitis .....	4	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	-	1
Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea .....	-	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	2	-
Congenital Malformations .....	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .	4	7
All other accidents .....	-	1
Total, all causes .....	<u>56</u>	<u>63</u>

Infectious Diseases

Notifications

Measles .....	83
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	1
Tuberculosis other ...	1
	<u>85</u>

National Assistance Act, 1948, S. 47

Again it was not necessary during the year to take action on behalf of the Authority under this Section which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital or other institutions of persons in need of care and attention and not receiving it from any other person.

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The following part of this Report was prepared by Mr. W.R, Ayrton. the Public Health Inspector, viz:-



Council Offices,  
West Parade Road,  
Scarborough.

The Chief Public Health Inspector's Report for the year ended  
31. 12. 65.

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GENERAL REMARKS

I was promoted to the post of Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector in February, 1966 and was not therefore, the responsible Officer during the year which is the subject of this report. With this in mind I have endeavoured to make what I consider to be appropriate remarks under the various subject headings of the report, giving attention to the past, but also with an eye to the future.

The area continues to develop as a residential area, almost exclusively via private enterprise. However, I feel that we may be on the threshold of further light industrial development and this, together with the probable development of intensified agricultural systems, will require careful planning control to ensure that maximum economic benefit is allied to public health requirements. The area already has examples of the problems which can arise when unsuitable industrial or agricultural developments proceed in close proximity to residential areas and vice versa. Intensive agricultural systems in particular require to be brought within much tighter planning control than at present and it is hoped that the government will find it possible to amend existing legislation to achieve this in the near future.

Two public health stanchions have been reinforced in the area over the past few years and particularly in the year which is the subject of this report, i.e. improvements to sewerage and drainage facilities and improvements to the water supplies in the area. The smaller, but nevertheless important, public health service of refuse collection has also been greatly improved and still further improvements are projected. It is gratifying to see the progress made in these fields.

As a "new boy" I am conscious of a great deal of public health work which needs to be carried out, particularly in the fields of Housing and Food Hygiene. Also virtually no progress has been made in the administration of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act since it came into force and other public health works require more attention than present arrangements allow. This state of affairs should not be allowed to continue any longer than necessary. The necessary time must be spent upon it and the necessary staff made available.

I conclude my opening remarks by thanking the Chairmen of the Council and the Committees, the Councillors, and all my colleagues on the staff for the co-operation and assistance they have given during the year.

## HOUSING

### a) New Housing

The pace of new housing development by private enterprise was maintained during the year and 247 new houses were completed compared to 217 during 1964. No dwellings were erected by the Council. Work will commence on the Beck Lane redevelopment at Cloughton in the early part of 1966 where 12 two-bedroomed bungalows designed to provide accommodation for elderly persons are to be provided. This will go some way towards easing the need for this type of accommodation in the area.

The Council also decided to build a small block of 4 single-bedroomed flats at Seamer and it is hoped that work will commence during 1966.

### b) Improvement Grants

37 applications for Discretionary Grant and 24 applications for Standard Grant were approved during 1965. This is a slight increase on previous years, but the figures could be improved upon by making a systematic village by village survey and encouraging owners to take advantage of the grant schemes in the case of suitable properties. The Council has adopted this method in the past in the parishes of Gristhorpe and Lebburston with considerable success. The total number of grants approved by the Council since the Act came into force is now 308.

### c) Action under the Housing Act, 1957

Number of houses inspected for defects	7
Number of houses unfit for human habitation:-	
In Clearance Areas	NIL
Number of houses closed	2
In respect of which undertakings were accepted	1
Number of houses capable of repair	NIL
Number of unfit houses made fit by informal action	2
Number of houses demolished	2
Number of inspections made	95

## WATER SUPPLIES

The Statutory Water Undertaker is the Scarborough Corporation and they supply the bulk of the population of the rural district. The private supply to Wykeham, Ruston and part of Hutton Buscel has now been taken over by the Corporation and various necessary improvements to the supply have been undertaken.

The only remaining private supplies of any consequence are those serving parts of Staintondale, Hackness, part of Harwood Dale, Broxa, Suffield and Silpho. The Corporation are, however, in the process of laying new water mains in these remaining areas and it is anticipated that they will take over the supply to these areas towards the end of 1966. These old private supplies have never been entirely satisfactory from the point of view of either quality or quantity and the extension of mains supplies in these areas is very welcome.



## WATER SUPPLIES (CONTINUED)

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At the end of the year 3,650 houses were connected to the main water supply, 204 being served by private supplies. A total of nine samples were taken for bacteriological examination from private supplies, four being satisfactory and five unsatisfactory.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

### 1) General

The connection of house drains formerly discharging to "old village drains" in the parishes of Burniston and Cloughton was completed by the contractors during the early part of the year and the whole of the extensions to the sewerage scheme are now in operation.

The Sewage Treatment Works at Burniston is producing a satisfactory effluent with little trouble, but during the year it became evident that the Seamer Works was grossly overloaded and that the position was deteriorating as more and more properties had foul drainage connected to the sewers. The Council therefore, gave the necessary instructions for a scheme to be prepared for suitable extensions to the works.

In the circumstances it is somewhat remarkable that a consistently satisfactory effluent is produced at these works except at the time of the "spring unload" when the effluent does cause some concern.

Cloughton Newlands, Hackness, Suffield, Harwood Dale, Staintondale, Troutsdale and Langdale End remain without sewerage systems, but most of these parishes are scattered and, with present day techniques, the severing of these areas cannot be envisaged. For the future it may be that Hackness and Cloughton Newlands will be provided with proper sewerage facilities when circumstances permit.

### 2) Connections to the Sewers

During the year 247 new houses were erected and of these 246 were connected to the Council's sewers. In addition 287 existing properties were connected, some by private individuals and some by the Council. At the end of the year the number of houses not connected to a main sewer was 899.

The Council have been involved in considerable expense on the provision of sewerage facilities and it is all the more pleasing and encouraging to note the beneficial effect on the area. Many streams and ditches which were potential health hazards, heavily polluted and had virtually been open sewers have become gradually brighter and cleaner as the drainage has been diverted from them to the new sewers. This represents a great improvement to the public health and wellbeing of the area.

### 3) Statistics relating to Water Carriage System of Drainage

Number of houses with water carriage system	3,658
Number of houses without water carriage system	197
Number of conversions to water carriage system during 1965	19

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

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There are 47 caravan sites licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 within the rural district, containing a total of 1,957 caravans.

The Council is concerned to see that these sites comply with the licensing conditions. Vigorous action to secure this was undertaken during the year and resulted eventually in all sites complying with licensing conditions. Unfortunately, it was necessary to prosecute two licensees in respect of contraventions of licensing conditions and fines totalling £45 were imposed by the Magistrates.

During the year 255 visits of inspection were made in connection with moveable dwellings including routine inspections of licensed sites and inspections in connection with the use of land in contravention of present legal provisions. The popularity of the area for camping holidays and the consequent effective public health supervision necessary is demanding on the time of the staff, but the general standard of sites in the area is now good and, in the main, site proprietors are co-operative and appreciate the good standard the Council sets in its area.

Under the Public Health Act, 1936, two sites which are licensed as tented camping sites have a total number of 142 tents and I consider that there is a need for more licensed sites of this nature. The area is becoming increasingly popular for weekend holidays and in the holiday period considerable number of tent campers invade the area. At Bank Holidays the situation is little short of chaotic. Present legislation gives local authorities no chance of controlling this type of site. Most land owners are well aware of the "free period" granted under the 1936 Act, and to show that they are allowing land to be used in excess of this period is practically impossible. There is no question that these sites do represent a potential public health hazard as they must have the same waste disposal problems etc. as caravan sites. I can see few arguments against the introduction of legislation which would treat tented camping sites, with suitable modification, in the same way as caravan sites and this would certainly improve the position in this area.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

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In April the Council took delivery of a new 35 cu. yd. Crushload refuse collection vehicle. The whole refuse collection system was re-organised, three further loaders were employed and a weekly collection was instituted in the more densely populated parishes of East and West Ayton, Seamer, Irton and Cayton. Later in the year it proved possible to extend the weekly collection to the larger caravan sites and also to the parishes of Gristhorpe, Lebberston and Hutton Buscel.

These changes together with the bonus scheme for refuse collection employees have vastly improved a service which was formerly the subject of many complaints from ratepayers.

In my view current public health standards dictate a weekly refuse collection service in all but the very rural parts of the area and it is hoped that future circumstances will permit implementation of the policy of extension of the weekly service.



# REFUSE COLLECTION (CONTINUED)

The following table is intended to give some indication of the extent of the service and its cost although figures quoted can only be approximate.

Comparison with the service given in other local authority areas is difficult because of the effect on the service of the high holiday population. Most of this holiday population is contained in caravan holiday camps which are given a weekly service.

\*Percentage of approximate population served

- (a) In weekly collection area 63%
- (b) In fortnightly collection area. 34%

Approximate weight of refuse collected	2,350tons
Total cost of refuse collection service	£6,867
Approximate cost per ton	£2 9s.
*Approximate cost per 1000 population	£771
Approximate cost per head population	15s. 5d.

\* Permanent population figures.

The Council operates three tips for the purpose of refuse disposal. The bulk of the refuse is disposed of at the Seamer tip which is controlled to a reasonably good standard although better results would be achieved with more suitable equipment. The tip at Burniston serves a useful purpose for that part of the area, but the site makes it difficult to maintain a good standard of control. The other small tip is Brompton. The site is a good one and again a reasonably good standard of control is maintained. The Council has accommodation for controlled tipping for the next two or three years, but it is rapidly becoming recognised that various factors, not least the changing composition of refuse, are rapidly making "controlled tipping" an outdated mode of disposal. In the reasonably near future the Council may have to consider alternative and probably mechanised means of disposal.

## FOOD HYGIENE

Business	Numbers	No. fitted to comply with Reg. 16*	No. to which Reg. 19 Applies*	No. fitted to Comply with Reg. 19*
Grocers	40	26	40	37
Butchers	10	6	10	10
Fish & Chips	4	2	4	4
Catering	39	32	39	30
Licensed Premises	26	15	26	26

\* of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960



## FOOD HYGIENE (CONTINUED)

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52 inspections were carried out. 10 unsatisfactory conditions were found and improvements effected.

There are no premises in the rural district where ice-cream is manufactured for sale. 44 premises are licensed for the storage and sale of ice-cream. Conditions generally were satisfactory. Generally speaking there is considerable scope in the district for much more work to be done on food hygiene education and administration of the Food and Drugs Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations. As in many health departments, this sector of the work is the first to suffer when the department is faced with a heavy work load in other fields. However, this is a most important local authority responsibility and should be in the forefront of their work. Proper administration of the various legal requirements is in itself a slow and patient task, very demanding upon an inspector's time. To this must be added the important function of educating not only personnel working in the food industry but also the general public.

## MEAT INSPECTION AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES

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The licences of the 4 slaughterhouses within the rural district were renewed upon an application by the owners. The premises receive regular inspections in addition to visits made in connection with meat inspection and generally the standard is quite good. However, if vigilance is in any way relaxed conditions rapidly deteriorate and it is only by constant reminders to licensees that the standard is maintained. A considerable number of minor unsatisfactory practices and conditions were remedied and 10 serious contraventions of the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations were remedied following representations to the licensees. 4 contraventions of the Slaughter of Animals Regulations also came to light and co-operation in remedying these was given.

Number of meat inspection visits	318
Number of animals inspected	1,527
Weight of meat considered unfit for human consumption	1,367 lbs.

Further information regarding meat inspection is given in Appendix 'B'.

## PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

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The work of the department under this heading ranges from investigation of nuisances from drainage through to investigation of noise nuisances etc. Again these matters can and do consume a considerable amount of the time of the staff of the department. It is the policy to obtain action to remedy nuisances by persuasion whenever possible rather than resorting to legal remedies and, of the number of nuisances dealt with during the year it proved necessary on only one occasion to seriously threaten legal proceedings. In all, the staff made 150 visits in connection with 42 nuisances and it proved possible to clear them all up, though as the main element involved is a human one, doubtless some nuisances will be only temporarily remedied.

# THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1960

Generally speaking the problems with which the above Act is meant to deal do not arise in this area and therefore, it is of little local importance. It is necessary to keep an eye on one industrial premises in the area, but having regard to the industry carried out the standard is good due to the use of mainly smokeless fuels for firing. Occasional problems do arise when the smokeless fuel is in poor supply and quantities of coal are used to make up weight.

## THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

128 premises have applied for registration under the above Act, but to date no work has been done on the administration of the Act. This legislation is filling a long standing gap in public health law and whilst it does not represent the same problems in a rural district as in an urban district an effort will have to be made to proceed with the considerable work involved.

## RODENT CONTROL

The Council employs a full time rodent operative and details of treatments carried out are given below:-

TABLE I

Complaints received	78
Number of treatments carried out	
(a) Rats	204
(b) Mice	11
Number of Bodies recovered	1,516
Estimated kill	5,518
Rechargeable properties treated	57

TABLE II

Minor infestations (19 rats and under)	
Sewers	NIL
Surface	32
Private Dwellings	94
Re-chargeable properties	17
Major infestations (20 rats and over)	
Sewers	NIL
Surface	19
Private Dwellings	2
Re-chargeable properties	40

Although one or two serious infestations of the Council's refuse tips occurred, rodent control in the area is not a general problem. In addition to dealing with complaints of infestations the entire area is surveyed parish by parish throughout the year. The refuse tips are kept under constant supervision and test baiting of the sewerage system is carried out from time to time. To date no serious infestations of the Council's sewers have been located.



Appendix 'A' to the Annual Report for the year  
ended 31st December, 1965

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of  
the Factories Act, 1961

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to Health  
(including inspections by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspection (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which S. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.'s.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (a) in which S.7 is enforced by L.A.'s.	76	32	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which S.7 is enforced by the L.A. (Excluding out- workers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	76	32	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:- NIL

3. Part VIII of the Act - Outwork (Section 110 and 111) NIL

Appendix 'B' to Report to the Medical Officer of  
Health for the year ended 31st December, 1965.

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Meat Inspections and Condemnations

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	340	1	1,152	34
Number Inspected	340	1	1,152	34
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	4	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	37	-	57	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	10.88%	0%	5.47%	8.82%
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-

One bullock carcase was found to be infested with localised  
Cysticercus Bovis. The affected part was rejected and the rest of  
the carcase diverted to cold storage.

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